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Letter dated 19 June 2015 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the draft resolution circulated to the members of the Security Council regarding the extension of the mandate of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), we would like to draw your kind attention to the following concerns and observations.

First, the draft resolution at hand totally undermines the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and calls for the creation of a new alternative track, instead of calling for support of the Document and for the non-signatories to join it immediately without preconditions, as contained in the previous Council resolutions. The draft also totally disregards the ongoing joint planning process for the exit strategy by the joint working group comprising the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of the Sudan.

Second, the draft at hand totally omits the preambular paragraph 12 from the previous draft that welcomed the announcement of the national dialogue, which provides an opportunity to address all the concerns of the remaining non-signatory movements to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, in accordance with the guarantees and assurances provided for them by the Government to participate in a free and transparent manner.

Third, the draft at hand is a recipe for mixing up the respective mandates of the African Union-United Nations Joint Special Representative for Darfur, the Special Envoy for the Sudan and South Sudan and the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, as the draft at hand inserts totally unaccepted new language into operative paragraph 6 in order to merge the peace process of Darfur with the ongoing peace process related to the two areas under the auspices of the High-level Panel, Blue Nile and the South Kordofan States.

Finally, the most outrageous point is that, for the first time, the draft includes an annex for UNAMID benchmarks that contains controversial approaches, namely, with regard to the high-level mediation and the protection of civilians, which cannot be considered less than a harsh political message, rather than a routine, procedural and technical rollover to renew the mandate of UNAMID.

Having brought these serious concerns to your kind attention, we stress once again that the draft resolution, unless radically amended, including by the total deletion of all of the negative paragraphs, will be counterproductive to the current

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positive momentum in Darfur, will send the wrong message to the remaining non-signatory movements to the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, and will negatively impact the ongoing cooperation and coordination with UNAMID, particularly within the context of the joint working group entrusted with the preparatory work for the phased exit strategy that we are jointly planning, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 2173 (2014).

It is worth mentioning that only a positive outcome from the Security Council can serve the cause of peace and stability in Darfur, not criticism or hostile political démarches.

(*Signed*) Hassan Hamid **Hassan**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.